

CITY OF LAS VEGAS DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

BLOCK *by* BLOCK

..... MAKING GREAT THINGS HAPPEN!

Homeless Count page 2

ALSO INSIDE:

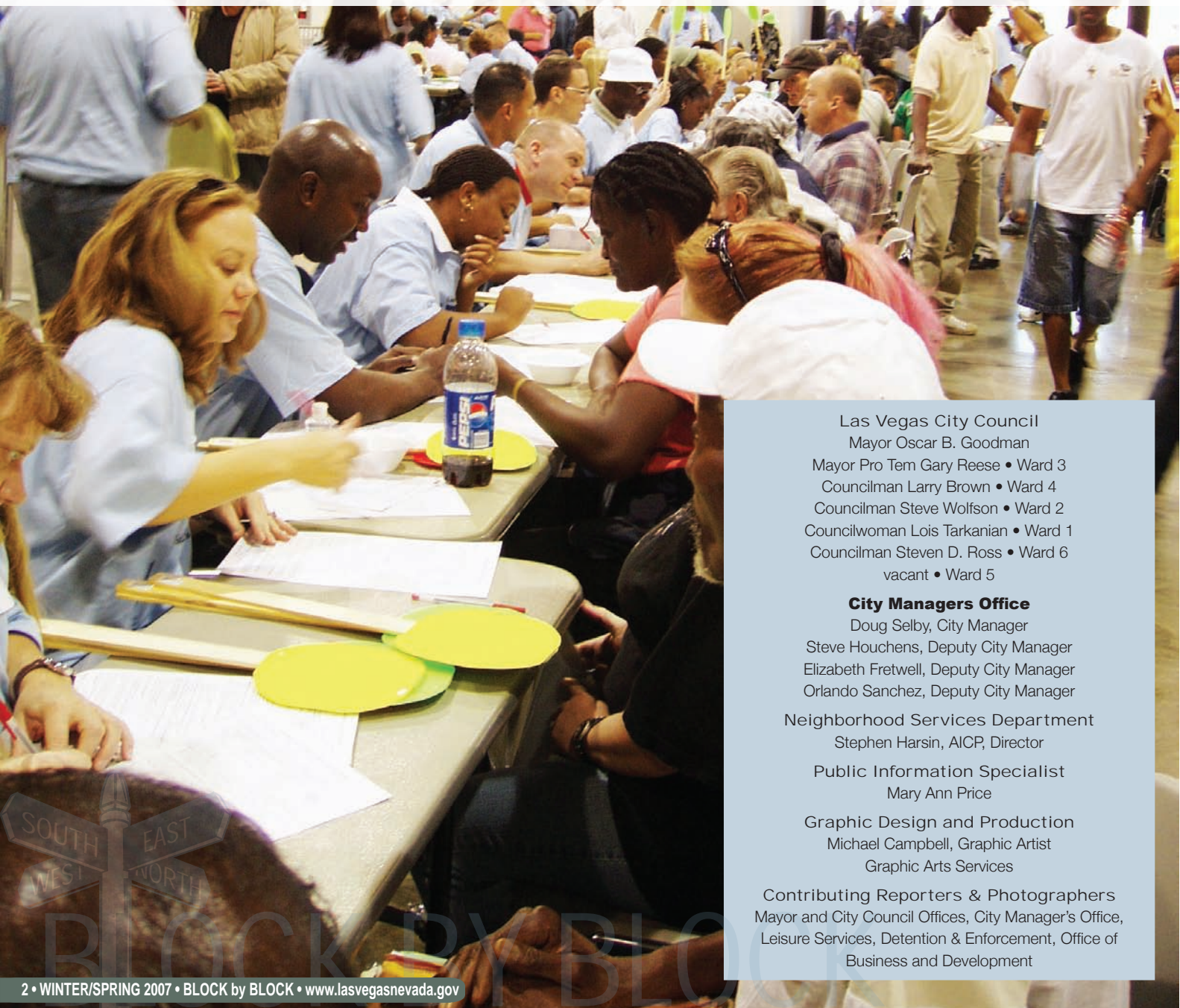
Stupak Center Youth Paint A Pretty Picture
City Celebrates More Affordable Housing
City of Las Vegas Delivers On Promise



..... WINTER/SPRING 2007

Homeless Count

They live under bridges, in cars and anywhere they can find shelter, they are the valley's homeless. The city and the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition committee on homelessness have committed to a 10-year plan to end homelessness in the valley. The plan involves a comprehensive strategy to utilize federal, state, local and private resources to address root-causes of homelessness. It stresses prevention, promotes interagency coordination of human service delivery programs; an increase the availability of stable and sustainable housing; and enhanced coordination between non-profit organizations and government. Many service programs receive financial support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which mandates that communities receiving federal money conduct a thorough census of their homeless populations every two years. The homeless count is critical in demonstrating the need for homeless programs. Nearly 1,000 volunteers, including a contingent from Neighborhood Services, hit the streets on January 30-31 to put an accurate number to those without a real place to call home. The homeless themselves were enlisted and paid \$10 an hour to help find those who live under the radar in washes and alleyways. The results of the count will be released in March. It is expected that the number of people living on the streets is up from the 14,700 that Clark County currently reports based on a homeless census conducted last year. Another homeless count will take place this summer.



Las Vegas City Council

Mayor Oscar B. Goodman
Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese • Ward 3
Councilman Larry Brown • Ward 4
Councilman Steve Wolfson • Ward 2
Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian • Ward 1
Councilman Steven D. Ross • Ward 6
vacant • Ward 5

City Managers Office

Doug Selby, City Manager
Steve Houchens, Deputy City Manager
Elizabeth Fretwell, Deputy City Manager
Orlando Sanchez, Deputy City Manager

Neighborhood Services Department

Stephen Harsin, AICP, Director

Public Information Specialist

Mary Ann Price

Graphic Design and Production

Michael Campbell, Graphic Artist
Graphic Arts Services

Contributing Reporters & Photographers
Mayor and City Council Offices, City Manager's Office,
Leisure Services, Detention & Enforcement, Office of
Business and Development

Stand Down For The Homeless Serves More Than 2000 People

Every year valley service providers come together at Cashman Center for the Stand Down for the Homeless, a one-stop-shop for those struggling with life on the streets. This year more than 2,100 individuals passed through the giant doors at Cashman, to be received by intake volunteers who gathered some basic information. The participants were channeled to services to get them on track to a better life including job services, housing, haircuts, dental work and eyeglasses.

Many of their stories have a familiar ring. They came to Las Vegas to seek new and better fortunes only to face the harsh reality of life on the streets in unfamiliar territory.



Pat Meyers and a friend were on their way to Las Vegas from Kansas City, Missouri for a new life. Along the way they were robbed of all their money, medication and belongings. Without seed money to begin their new fortunes here, they were down and out. They visited the Stand Down and got "better than what they could have hoped for," according to Meyers.



The Southern Nevada Regional Coalition Committee to End Homelessness recently launched a Help Hope Home Web site to provide a centralized location for information on homelessness and for those who want to help address the issue. Visit www.helphopehome.com

2006 Homeless Stand Down Report

By Jaime LaFavor, chair of the Homeless Stand Down Committee

- \$5,000 total cash spent
- 2,109 clients completed intake
- 500+ volunteers
- 70 agencies/organizations participated
- 2,000 clients served
- 411 assessed for housing
- 253 applied for housing
- 228 housed
- 1,020 accessed social services
- 62 received medical cards
- 65 received rental assistance
- 75 employment hires
- 183 received medical appointments
- 240 received eye examinations
- 1,000+ received reading glasses
- 45 received dental services
- 1,598 accessed court services
- 230 received immunizations
- 639 haircuts
- 2,000+ blankets, hygiene items and food items distributed
- 1,300+ bus passes given for follow-up appointments
- 250 jackets distributed

Homeless Administrator Tracks Progress On City's 10-Year Plan

Tara Ulmer is the city's new homeless administrator who will coordinate and track the city's progress toward meeting the priorities set in the 10-year plan to end homelessness. Tara brings nearly 15 years of experience in program administration and evaluation, workforce education and development, strategic planning and contract/grant administration. She has extensive experience in working with programs that serve high-risk individuals with multiple barriers such as drug abuse, mental health, unemployment, homelessness and felonies. She has also worked to unify a high crime, low income area to win the battle against alcohol and drugs by building stronger, healthier youth and families through the provision of mini neighborhood grants.





City Forms Partnership With Community Interfaith Council

In October, the city launched the Community Interfaith Council (CIC) comprised of individuals from the diverse faith community including Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, Buddhist and other faith-based organizations. They will expand social services and utilize community resources to combat problems like drug addiction and homelessness.

The city works with the interfaith groups to better the community. Neighborhood Services' role is to provide technical assistance and guidance to the CIC. Under a plan adopted by the federal government, faith-based organizations are eligible to participate in federally administered social service programs to the same degree as any other group, although certain restrictions apply to protect the concept of separation of church and state.

Nearly 500 people attended the CIC "pray for Las Vegas" citywide event at the City Hall plaza on November 4. To facilitate collaboration and improve effectiveness of services, the CIC is collecting data on what faith-based organizations are doing in the community. A Web site provides information to groups that would like to participate at www.cic.org.

"Faith in Action Days" will be held throughout the year to bring faith-based groups together to address community needs. The first "Faith in Action Day" drew more than 400 volunteers on January 20 to clean up the Washington Square area (Washington/Pecos area). The "Faith in Action Day" was a successful collaboration between the city of Las Vegas, Community Interfaith Council and the Southern Nevada Community Gang Task-Force-Prevention -Committee.

Southern Nevada Gang Task Force Operation Lasting Peace



Gangs are a growing problem across the United States and Las Vegas is no exception. In Chicago, gangs have long ruled the streets. Homicide is the top cause of death for individuals under the age of 35. A contingent from the Southern Nevada Community Gang Task Force, including

gang specialists, a hospital case worker, a city of Las Vegas neighborhood planner and a faith-based representative, went to the Windy City to get a first-hand look at a Chicago gang intervention program. To help get a handle on the problem, Dr. Gary Slutkin founded the Chicago Center for Violence Prevention. Dr. Slutkin took his expertise in treating infectious disease and applied the principles to interrupt the violence. He, along with former gang members and community partners, hit the streets with a CeaseFire Illinois program, to prevent violence and retaliation. They work to change mindset that violence is the norm. After gang violence occurs they visit hospitals and families to stem the vicious cycle of retaliation. They negotiate a way out for gang members who have committed to a life of service.

A similar program was recently launched in Las Vegas. In January, Victory Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Robert E. Fowler called upon the Southern Nevada Community Gang Task Force to implement "Operation Lasting Peace" in Las Vegas. Like the Chicago program, Operation Lasting Peace taps existing resources to spread the message that violence is not the norm and successfully builds safe, healthy, livable neighborhoods through community mobilization of churches, residents and community service organizations. Resident input and involvement are a key factor to the success of this initiative.



Event Stems Graffiti And Crime In Gateway District Neighborhood



Camille and Jerry Duskin, property owners and leaders of the Gateway District Association, developed the alley art initiative called “Gateway Gallery – A Public Art Collection.” Property owners in the area provided their buildings as blank canvases for the murals. Artist Hector Jeter led the way for the young painters to complete the beautiful mural. The alley art is one of several community enhancement projects planned for the Gateway area.

Technology Helps To Nab Taggers



Las Vegas City Council Approves Grants To Help Ex-Felons Evolve Into Productive Citizens

The Las Vegas City Council gave unanimous approval for the EVOLVE Program to use \$200,000 in federal funding for tenant based rental assistance. EVOLVE is a program that helps ex-offenders re-enter society in productive lives through viable employment, intensive case management, training and treatment. The goal is to increase public safety, reduce ex-felon recidivism and promote their self-sufficiency, ultimately saving taxpayers' money.

The plan to provide tenant based rental assistance was developed to help ex-offenders acquire and maintain stable housing, to improve their chances for success and reduce the potential that they will return to a life of crime. The grant funding will be used for deposits and/or to bridge housing income gaps for those who are completing the EVOLVE training and employment program.

Every year, 4,000 to 5,000 ex-offenders are released from the Nevada Department of Corrections into the Las Vegas Valley. Upon release from prison, Nevada inmates are given \$21 and transported to the bus station. With little money, no transportation and limited job prospects, the odds of their success for a crime-free life are dismal.

The national recidivism rate average is above 66 percent; for EVOLVE participants it is below 20 percent. EVOLVE has successfully placed 70 percent of participants in employment at an average hourly wage in excess of \$11.

The allocation of grant funding will come from the Home Investment Partnership Programs and Low Income Housing Trust Funds.

City Celebrates More Affordable Housing For Las Vegas Seniors

City Provided \$1.2 Million In HOME Funds For Low-Income Senior Apartment Complex

City officials celebrated the grand opening of the new Bonanza Pines III apartment complex in December. The \$10.5 million community is located on 4170 E. Bonanza Road. The project features 62 affordable, high-quality, one and two-bedroom apartments with rents set for very low-income seniors. A public and private partnership made Bonanza Pines III possible, including: the city of Las Vegas, Nevada H.A.N.D., Inc., The Nevada Housing Division, Wells Fargo Bank and National Equity Fund.

Apartments are reserved for individuals earning less than \$24,780 or couples earning less than \$28,320. Rents range from approximately \$214 to \$436 per month for one-bedroom units and \$264 to \$529 per month for the two-bedroom units. Each unit is cable-ready and contains kitchens with basic appliances including a range, refrigerator and garbage disposal; ceiling fans; central heating and air conditioning; and a patio or balcony.

Additional features include age-appropriate activities and social outings, free common-area laundry facilities, transportation services, computer center with free Internet services, library, beauty salon, Jacuzzi and a fitness center. HAND Property Management Company serves as the managing agent for the development.

Bonanza Pines III was developed through private and public investments. National Equity Fund made a \$9.5 million equity investment in exchange for Low Income Housing Tax Credits issued by the Nevada Housing Division. Wells Fargo Bank provided \$7.7 million construction loan and the city of Las Vegas awarded the development \$1,162,000 in HOME/LIHT Funds.



Heart Attack Warning Signs

The American Heart Association Reports

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense — but most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. People often wait too long before getting help.



Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath.** May occur with or without chest discomfort.
- **Other signs:** These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

Stroke Warning Signs

The American Stroke Association says these are the warning signs of stroke:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

If you or someone with you has one or more of these signs, don't delay! Immediately call 9-1-1 or the emergency medical services (EMS) number so an ambulance (ideally with advanced life support) can be sent for you. Also, check the time so you'll know when the first symptoms appeared. It's very important to take immediate action. If given within three hours of the start of symptoms, a clot-busting drug can reduce long-term disability for the most common type of stroke.

The Web site www.americanheart.org has a wealth of information from recipes to exercises for a healthy lifestyle.

Sign Of The Time

Election time is around the corner. You can tell by all the new campaign signs around the valley. There are size limits and other restrictions on political signs. For example, they are only permitted on private property. All political signs shall be removed within 15 days after the election to which they pertain. Signs supporting a candidate who loses a primary election or wins a nonpartisan race in a primary election should be removed within 15 days after the primary. If signs are not removed within the specified time, the city may, upon five days written notice, remove and dispose of the signs. The city may also charge the responsible party for the cost of the removal. To learn more about the Las Vegas Zoning Code pertaining to signs visit www.lasvegasnevada.gov zoning code chapter 19.14. Call 229-6615 for questions or to report signs.



NEIGHBORHOODS *in action*



Councilman Larry Brown enjoys a chat with a recent Citizens Leadership Academy graduate.



City of Las Vegas Traffic Engineer O.C. White updates Glen Heather neighborhood association on a recent traffic study.



Recent recipients of the YNAPP grant.



Councilman Ross and his dog "Küper" enjoy the grand opening of Winding Trails.



Clark Towers Neighborhood Committee recent meeting.



Councilman Steven D. Ross addresses the graduating class of the 2006 Citizens Leadership Academy.



More than 125 joyful Ward 1 Sartina Plaza residents gather to enjoy their annual holiday dinner.



Ward 6 residents enjoyed their holiday party.



The Jude 22 Christmas concert brought smiles to many people.

NEIGHBORHOODS *in action*



Councilman Steven D. Ross at the Ward 6 Information Fair.



Ward 1 holiday dinner features Santa with the Stella Fleming Tower resident council president.



Fourth Annual Griffith Elementary School Unity Fair.

City of Las Vegas Delivers On Promise

For New Location For Organization That Helps Homeless Families

The Las Vegas City Council was in a tough spot at a May 17 council meeting; on the one side was Family Promise, a non-profit organization that helps homeless families get on their feet. On the other side were families living in the residentially zoned neighborhood in which Family Promise was operating. The neighbors wanted Family Promise out. Zoning law was on their side. The council voted to have the facility relocated but promised to help them find a new place to operate within six months. The city made good on the promise and found a new site at 320 South Ninth Street, behind the city's Downtown Senior Services Center in a mixed-use neighborhood. Neighborhood Services staff identified the parsonage behind the Downtown Senior Services Center as a possible location for Family Promise.

Family Promise staff toured the site and agreed it would be a good match for their services.

The executive director of Family Promise Terry Lindemann thanked the City Council and said, "We are tremendously grateful for this new place. Our lights are on because you kept your promise."



Grand Opening Of Help Genesis Affordable Apartment Complex

Officials celebrated the grand opening of the 75-unit Help Genesis affordable apartment complex on March 1. The complex is intended for low income residents at 30-40 percent of area median income with special preference for veterans.

Second-stage supportive services will be available at the complex such as employment and educational programs, life skills training, case management and health care services. Rents will range from \$310 - \$553 per month. The complex also includes fitness and computer rooms, a laundry facility and a storage building for residents. Sixty of the units are single room occupancy and 15 are one-bedroom apartments.

The city of Las Vegas provided \$1.3 million in Home Investment Partnership Funds for the \$7,766,270 first of three phases that will add 200 affordable units in the city. The city also provided a four-acre parcel for the three-phased project. In March 2004, the property was appraised at around \$1 million dollars for four acres.

The city is also involved in a similar project, currently under construction on an adjacent property which will add another 78 affordable units to the area.



Making Great Things Happen In 2006

Currently, the city has 155 active neighborhood associations registered. These associations are mobilizing with city staff and community partners to address neighborhood issues.

The Neighborhood Partners Fund grants of up to \$5,000 to fund community enhancement projects for organized neighborhoods that bring matching volunteer labor, donated supplies or cash. More than \$233,703 was leveraged from the NPF for FY 05/06.

Youth groups partnering with neighborhood associations can apply for up to \$1,000 in Youth Neighborhood Association Partnership Program (YNAPP) grants to make community improvements. They are responsible for matching the grant with volunteer labor, donated materials or cash. More than \$331,795 was leveraged from the YNAPP for FY 05/06.

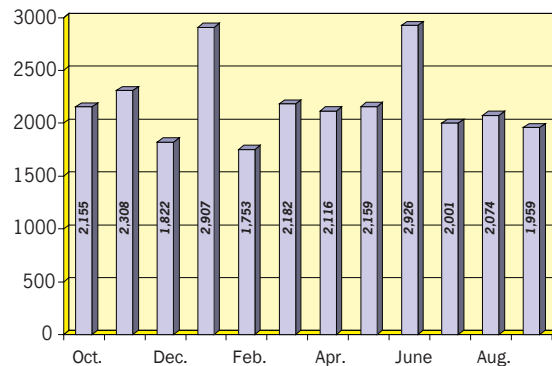
The city spent \$101,243 on paint alone to clean up 59,093 occurrences of graffiti in FY 05/06.

Civil penalties have recently been added to the fee structure for code violators who do not address their violations in the time specified. In FY 05/06, \$146,249 was collected in civil penalties.

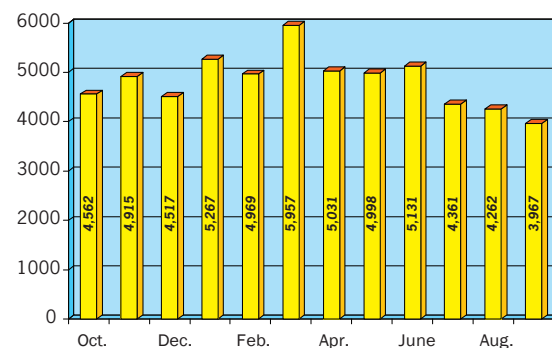
Neighborhood Services has been placing liens on properties for code violations that include abatement, boarded building certificates, temporary fencing, asbestos surveys, administrative fees, inspection/re-inspection fees and civil penalties. In FY 05/06, \$90,692 was collected from liens.

The Numbers FY 05/06

Neighborhood Cleanups	44
Graffiti Abatements	59,093
Citizens' Code Compliance Hotline Calls	26,505
Active Neighborhood Associations	155



CITIZEN'S CODE COMPLIANCE HOTLINE CALLS FY 05/06



GRAFFITI ABATEMENTS FY 05/06

Affordable Housing Update

Affordable housing is crucial to the vitality of Las Vegas. Neighborhood Services allocates 18-percent of Redevelopment Set-aside funds to preserve and develop affordable housing. With a total investment of more than \$92 million since 2000, the city of Las Vegas has developed 3,838 affordable housing units including single family homes, apartment buildings and senior housing. In the past year alone, we've added close to 700 units, including the recent grand openings of Bonanza Pines III, Silver Sky Assisted Living and Sundance Village. City commitments of close to \$24.5 million will add an additional 1,070 affordable housing units within the next two years. Neighborhood Services is also working to establish a Community Land Trust to preserve affordable housing in perpetuity by holding long-term leases to the property upon which homes are built.

Neighborhood Services oversees the allocation of \$500,000 for the Homeownership for Educators program that assists with housing costs for income-qualifying teachers. The city is providing rental assistance to 16 teachers through the Homeownership for Educators program, with a potential of 19 more teachers to join the program soon.





City of Las Vegas
Neighborhood Services
400 Stewart Avenue, 2nd Floor
Las Vegas, NV 89101

March 2007 • GA-27685

 neighborhoodsonline@lasvegasnevada.gov

Important Phone Numbers

Mayor's Office 229-6241
City Council Office..... 229-6405
City Manager's Office 229-6501
City Attorney..... 229-6201
City Clerk..... 229-6311
Sheriff's Office 229-3394
METRO (non-emergency) 795-3111
Emergency..... 911

Fire Department..... 383-2888
Permits 229-6251
Planning & Development 229-6301
Leisure Services 229-6297
Neighborhood Services
Department 229-2330
Neighborhood
Response Division..... 229-6615

Citizen Hotline 229-6615
(graffiti, dangerous abatement, etc)
Neighborhood
Initiatives Division..... 229-6269
Neighborhood
Development Division 229-2555
EVOLVE Center..... 638-6371
Downtown Senior
Services Center..... 229-6690

Citizens Leadership Academy class of 2006.



Block by Block Needs Your Input!

Block by block is a quarterly newsletter published by the city of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services Department. All neighborhood associations registered with the city's Neighborhood Partnership Program will receive this newsletter quarterly. To register, please contact Neighborhood Services at (702) 229-2330 or e-mail us at: neighborhoodsonline@lasvegasnevada.gov.

